to the project authorities in August 2002 with the request to resubmit the same after necessary inputs are tied up and inter-state aspects are resolved.

Electrification of Orissa villages

2155. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased state:

(a) whether Government are aware that 9953 villages in Orissa are yet to be electrified;

(b) if so, the number of villages in Orissa to be electrified during the current year under PMGY; and

(c) the steps taken by Government for time bound electrification of all the villages in Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATIJAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) As per Central Electricity Authority (CEA) statistics, there are 46989 inhabited villages in Orissa (1991 census). Of these, 35232 villages have been declared as electrified as on 30th April, 2001 leaving a balance of 11757 un-electrified villages.

(b) Planning Commission has allocated an amount of Rs. 108.63 crores under Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana (PMGY) for the current year *i.e.* for the year 2002-03 for all the six components including rural electrification for Orissa. Out of this, Government of Orissa has allocated an amount of Rs.1 crore for rural electrification. With this notional allocation, it is expected that only 16 villages would be electrified during the current financial year based on the average cost of electrification of a village at the rate of 6 lakhs. Government has drawn the attention of Orissa Government to the need for increasing allocation for the purpose of rural electrification programme during the current financial year at least to the extent of allocation made in the year 2001 -02 which stood at Rs. 17.04 crores.

(c) The priorities for formulation and execution of rural electrification schemes are determined by the State Governments/State Electricity Boards/Power Utilities based on the directions and policies of the State Governments' concerned. However, in the Chief Ministers'conference held on 3rd March, 2001, it was resolved to complete electrification of all villages by 2007 and achieve coverage of all household by 2012.

To facilitate the achievement of these objectives the following steps have been taken:

- Rural electrification is now treated as Basic Minimum Service and has been included under the Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana (PMGY) from the year 2001 -02

- Government has released an amount of Rs. 17.04 crores under PMGY and Rs. 11.33 crores under Minimum Needs Programme (MNP) to the Government of Orissa during 2001-02 for rural electrification.

- Against an allocation of Rs. 60 crore under MNP for 2002-03, Government has released an amount of Rs. 30.00 crores to Orissa.

- States can also access funds from Rural Electrification Corporation (REC), Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) and Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) for the programme.

- Rural Electrification Corporation have formulated new schemes for electrification of dalit bastis and hamlets at lower rate of interest.

- Orissa Government have been requested to finalize an Action Plan year-wise for completing the electrification of all villages during the 10th Plan.

Giving training in all regions by CEA

2156. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Electricity Authority has started giving training in all regions of the country to accelerate improvement of the electricity supply system of the country;

(b) the details of the regions in which the training is going to be conducted, State-wise; and

(c) the details of time-frame that has been fixed within which the training is to be given?